

# THE WHITECHAPEL HERALD.

JULY,

A LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

1922.

## Whitechapel Primitive Methodist Mission.

Centres : 1.—Brunswick Hall. 2.—Working Lads' Institute & Home. 3.—Homes of Rest, Southend-on-Sea.

Superintendent—REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

Assistant—REV. J. E. THORP, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

### MOTTO FOR 1922.

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

1 Peter v. 7.

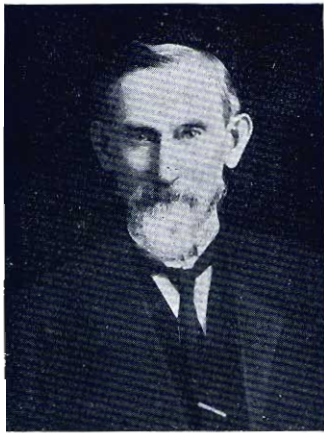
We  
provide  
a  
Home  
for  
Destitute  
Orphan  
Lads.



2,500  
have  
been  
cared for  
by us.

*Our Home—Orphan Lads having their Christmas Dinner.*

## Superintendent's Notes.



Thomas Jackson.

"I wish I had your optimism," said a friend to me the other day. It would seem strange to me if, after half a century of experience of the goodness and faithfulness of my Heavenly

Father, I was not to-day a confirmed optimist. In my work for the Blessed Saviour, when at times all my plans seemed to be beset with apparently insurpassable difficulties, He never failed me, and failure was never my recompense. "Having, therefore, obtained help of God, I continue unto this day." The atmosphere from the slums surrounding my Whitechapel home may not have a suburban fragrance; my neighbours may be the chief among publicans and sinners; the pleading of the needy and destitute may not sound in our ears as melodious as the nightingale's notes in sylvan scenery; and frequent contact with the homeless and criminal may not provide us with ideal companionships. Still, if God be for us, who or what can be against us; and if He be with us, then surely we ought not to regard Whitechapel Mission other than as "the House of God, and the gate of heaven." If we place God first and make the spiritual supreme, the dark days and trying times through which we are passing will not obscure the vision of faith or shame our Christian hope. To all my comrades in service and to all readers of the "Herald" I repeat

the words of the Apostle Paul, "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God."

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## The Sketches.

The twenty-four *sketches of my life*, which recently appeared in the columns of the P.M. Leader, seem to have afforded interest and supplied pleasant reading to a wide circle of friends. If the sketches have occasioned any of my supporters to magnify the grace of God, and added to their satisfaction in having assisted me in my labours, then I am amply recompensed for the time spent in writing them. Many friends have asked whether the sketches will be published in book form. My answer has been, and is, that I have no intention of so publishing them. To the request from friends, whose opinion I greatly respect, that I publish an Autobiography, I have not been inclined up to the present to give other than a negative answer. My concern is to make history rather than review it. There are few valedictory symptoms troubling me, and my aspirations are to help in proving that the best is yet to be. So for the present I refrain from engaging in the publishing trade.

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## Slum Children.

The notorious Brady Street area is the principal sphere of our activities on behalf of hungry children. It is near our doors, and the cry of the needy is daily heard by us. When winter adds its inconveniences to the experiences of the poor, then our Mission is to assist in answering the prayer



One of our Xmas Parties.



*Home of Rest.*

of many starving little ones, “Give us this day our daily bread.” What a pleasure it is to myself and co-workers to be able to do this. Day after day there is much similarity in our proceedings, but no monotony. To be able to give a good meal to children, scantily clothed in the bitterest cold weather, and cause a little pleasure to be expressed in their pinched and pale faces, affords us unfailing interest and satisfaction. The past season’s efforts on behalf of slum children produced the following results:

**10,000 Penny Dinners,  
2,500 Free Breakfasts,  
1,450 to Xmas Treats.**

In addition to meals supplied, a large quantity of cast-off clothing, suitable for children, was distributed to the most needy cases. The poor mites, through me, thank all contributors.

\* \* \*

### Hard Lines.

We have many widows and old age pensioners in our Mission fold. What brave souls many of these are! Real heroines. They toil and spin when they have the

opportunity, and seek by their unaided efforts to meet the demand of their slum homes. The old pilgrims who have borne the heat and burden of life’s day, when they have to meet all their domestic requirements out of ten shillings per week, have always a struggle to make ends meet. Not unfrequently both cupboard and firegrate are too scantily supplied. During the severest of the wintry weather it was our privilege to keep the firegrate

of from sixty to seventy families supplied with fuel. To hear these elderly people pronouncing blessing upon our Mission was most gratifying. One dear old sister, of 80 years, who was a martyr to rheumatism and was without any fire, when she saw the sack of coal brought to her door at once commenced to sing as best she could:

*“Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.”*

Some of our kind helpers sent us tea, sugar, and other articles of food, and these enabled us to pay surprise visits to where need was the greatest. Our talk, during the visitation of these needy folk, about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was much easier and far more effective, through being accompanied by these kindly and timely helps.



*Drawing Room of Home of Rest.*

## An Interesting Coming of Age.



*Home of Rest Dining Room.*

On Easter Monday we celebrated the coming of age of the first Connexional Holiday and Convalescent Home, Primitive Methodism possessed. For some six years we carried on the work in rented houses, and during the seasons applications for admission to the Home far exceeded our accommodation. An unexpected opportunity occurred to secure a splendid site on the Marine Parade, some thirty yards from the beach. The price was £1,175 and a deposit was paid at the time of the offer, before the routine of red-tape had been attempted. Had we delayed decision to purchase until all official "i's" had been dotted and all "t's" crossed we should have lost the site. Within three months of our securing the site, other persons realised what a valuable position we had obtained, and an offer of £1,000 more than we had given for it was made us. We preferred, however, that Primitive Methodism should have the best available position on the Marine Parade. We have no sympathy with the policy, which for the sake of cheapness, accepts back-street, side-street, cul-de-sac positions. The charge of 'cheap and nasty' can apply to sites for Primitive Methodist property as well as to 'sweated articles of clothing' and we favour neither.

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## Our First Venture.

This was made by hiring a

furnished house for six months in Cromer Road, Southend. It was opened as a Home of Rest on Easter Monday, 1893; also on that day we opened the Southend Primitive Methodist Mission. At the expiration of six months we engaged Rayleigh House, Marine Parade, on a three years' agreement and furnished it to accommodate 40 visitors. At the expiration of three years we had to remove. For the following five years we had to carry on the work of the Home in rented houses. Memorial Stones of the Home of Rest, whose coming of age we have recently celebrated, were laid on August 7th, 1900. We entered upon an expenditure of £4,000 with seven shillings and sixpence cash in hand. The first Memorial Stone was laid by myself and I was able to place, as the gift of Mrs. Jackson and myself, all we possessed, viz. £100. My friend, the late Mr. John Hitchman, laid the next stone and gave £50. Ten other stones were laid by friends; Sir W. P. Hartley sent me £50; and the work went merrily on. We opened the Home for visitors on Easter Monday, 1901, with a debt of £2,800. In four years after the opening, the entire debt was



*Holiday Home, No. 2.*



*Arnold Drawing Room,  
Home No. 2.*

extinguished  
On Easter  
Monday last  
we had a  
bright doxology  
meeting. A  
crowded  
audience,  
commendatory

addresses from my colleague and the Rev. E. E. Jobling, and a record of **14,000** visitors having used the Home to report. Re-painting and re-furnishing at a cost of £400 had been effected and the whole raised.

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## Holiday Home, No. 2.

### Third Anniversary. = =

On Whit-Monday a delightful garden meeting was held in the grounds of Holiday Home, No. 2. The weather was ideal, and under the shade of the "wide-spreading sycamore trees," the friends listened to an inspiring report of the past year's activities. Primitives from Circuits distant and near had resided in the Home to spend a pleasant holiday or regain health and vigour. Members of other Churches had been amongst the 700 guests, and all had experienced home comforts away from home. More than one hundred needy and worthy members of various churches had been admitted as free or assisted cases, but no distinction made in attention or treatment as between paying or non-paying visitors. The method of not letting the left hand know what the right hand does is adopted in this aspect of our management.

Holiday Home, No. 2, is Connexional property, Freehold and Debtless. It was purchased in March, 1919; needful alterations and repairs effected; the 25 rooms furnished and decorated and the grounds put in order at a total cost of £3,010, and opened on the

following Whit-Monday Free of Debt. This second Connexional Holiday Home is admired by all who visit it, and is one of which Primitive Methodists express themselves as proud. If this recent acquisition had been launched by an appeal for shareholders to whom five and a half per cent. interest was promised on their investments, the Connexional Magazines might have supplied glowing descriptions of it. We do not, however, use the Primitive Methodist name to secure 5½% for investors, but to promote the Connexion's interests.

As an increasing number of friends in the Connexion write asking for particulars, the following may be of interest:—

#### RULES.

- 1.—No mental case, or those subject to fits, paralysis, consumption, blind, a cough likely to disturb the other visitors, or recovering from any infectious disease, or requiring nursing attention, admitted.
- 2.—Visitors not arriving at the Homes on the day arranged for, must, nevertheless, leave on the day appointed, if required.
- 3.—Bedrooms may be used for resting during the afternoon, but must be kept neat. Female visitors are required to make their beds.
- 4.—No intoxicating liquors are admitted or allowed in the Homes.
- 5.—Breakfast at 8.30 a.m.; Dinner at 1 p.m.; Tea at 5 p.m.; Supper at 9 p.m. Visitors to retire to their bedrooms not later than 10.30 p.m.
- 6.—All are required to attend the daily prayers in the Homes, morning and evening, and some place of worship on Sunday (health permitting).
- 7.—TERMS (paid in advance). During June: Men, 31/6; Women, 28/- per week. During July: Men, 35/-; Women, 31/6 per week. During August and the first two weeks in September: Men, 42/-; Women, 35/- per week. Persons wishing to use the Homes from Saturday afternoon to Monday morning may do so (when accommodation is available) at a charge of 10/-; during August and first two weeks in Sep-



*Dining Room, Home No. 2.*



*A Penny Dinner Guest.*

tember, 13/-. Milk and laundry charged as extras.

8.—Application for admission to the Homes must be made to the Superintendent or Matron, and be accompanied with a stamped and directed envelope for reply. Members of all Christian Churches are eligible for admission.

9.—Visitors are not admitted to the Homes on the day of

arrival before 3 p.m., and must leave not later than 2 p.m. on the day of departure, except when special arrangements have been made otherwise.

10.—Special Terms are arranged for needy and suitable cases requiring rest and change such as the Homes provide. Application to be made to the Superintendent or Matron.

11.—In the event of any visitors violating these Rules, or conducting themselves offensively in the Homes, the Matron has authority to request them to leave at once.

N.B.—Electric Trams run from High Street (just outside Southend Station) to the Beach (Kursaal, fare 1½d.) which is one minute's walk from the Homes.

The Homes are conducted on a self-supporting basis, and any profit that is made is allocated to the Mission Funds.

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### Visit of the Lord Mayor and the City Sheriffs. = =

May 8th was a red letter day at the Working Lads' Institute and Home. The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the City Sheriffs and their wives came from the Mansion House to the Institute in full civic state. On their arrival the Roy Scouts and a large crowd welcomed them with lusty cheers. The meeting in the Alexandra Room was the best of twenty-six Annual Meetings we have held. The Member of Parliament for the Whitechapel Division, Magistrates, Borough Councillors, and others, took part, and the

audience was a most enthusiastic one. The report submitted was heartily adopted. The Home has had 125 orphan and destitute lads under its care during the year. The Probation Officer has paid 300 visits to Prisons and Police Courts; eleven discharged prisoners had been received into the Home; fifty discharged prisoners, who were ineligible for admission to the Home, were placed in lodgings and provided with food until work was found for them. All are reported to be doing well and earning an honest livelihood. Of the 125 admissions 67 were orphan, destitute, and homeless.

**The Lord Mayor** said "that the report was so comprehensive and conclusive that there was little left for him to say. The Institute, which was the pioneer of all such efforts on behalf of working lads, was doing a wonderful work. At the Mansion House and Guildhall Police Courts they were able to appreciate the beneficent work it was doing. He wished the Institute continued success."

The Institute and Home were never more needed or more successful than at present, but the one feature that is painfully unsatisfactory is the financial. The income for the past year was £1,510/19/7 and the expenditure £2,028/1/9, leaving us with a deficit of £517/2/2. This balance has had to be supplied by impoverishing other branches of our work, which is most regrettable. I have appealed for several years past that the Connexion should have an opportunity to assist work for orphans in Whitechapel, as it has for Alresford and Harrogate Homes. The responsibility for raising the money needed for Whitechapel orphans rests with the Superintendent personally. The whole Connexion's contribution for Orphans is ear-marked for the Homes named. The balance sheet of Alresford and Harrogate Homes reveals their happy financial position. Up to the present Primitive



Methodism has *officially* financially ignored the Whitechapel Orphan Home, and I, as Superintendent, feel to have suffered an injustice.

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### The Recent Conference.

*His First Offence.* I was permitted to bring the claims of the work for orphan lads before the recent Conference at Leeds and was given a sympathetic hearing. I stated that during the past 25 years upwards of 1,000 orphans had been cared for in the Whitechapel Home. That the funds needed had to be raised by the Superintendent personally, for though Conference appointed the Superintendent and Management Committee it made no provision for its support. In addition to the record of evangelistic, philanthropic, and social work of the past twenty-six years, we had raised, without asking for or receiving any grant from Connexional Funds, upwards of £100,000 for various funds, and that after forty-six years pioneer Home Missionary work in London slums, I thought it not unreasonable that I should ask the Conference for some relief from the financial pressure the work of the Whitechapel Home involved.

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### Conference Resolution.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by Conference after very appreciative remarks by Rev. J. T. Barkby and Mr. C. R. Maynard, viz.: “We heartily commend the splendid work done in the Institute and Home to the Conference and ask for its assistance in securing for the Institution adequate financial

support. We tender Revs. T. Jackson and J. E. Thorp our sincere thanks. We deeply appreciate the good work they are doing.” We may hope after such an expression there may be some practical support forthcoming.

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### Belper House.

On a portion of the grounds of Holiday Home, No. 2, at Southend is being erected two four-roomed shops, having a frontage to Pleasant Road. The grounds of the Home will still be ample for the requirements of visitors, and the shops will be an attraction to the property. The cost will be £1,400 and the nett rent will be applied to the work at Whitechapel. I have suggested the name of Belper House as a compliment to my birthplace, and I have good reason for predicting there will be no debt upon the premises when Christmas, 1922, arrives. My desire is to make all the provision possible to ensure the continuance of the work in Whitechapel, notwithstanding the poverty and crime that will have to be contended with in the future.

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### A Coming Event.

The 46th Anniversary of my London Ministry will be held (D.V.) on my 72nd birthday, October 16th next. I anticipate a gathering of more than ordinary interest and some friends have already intimated their intention of being present. I know of one pleasing surprise for that occasion, and if all my friends would like to cheer Mrs. Jackson and myself, then birthday gifts for the work will be the best way of doing it. Please to remember (not the 5th of November, but) the 16th of October, and my warmest thanks, with those of Mrs. Jackson, will be returned for such remembrance.

THOMAS JACKSON.



Rev. J. E. Thorp.

The social ministries of the Whitechapel Mission are known throughout our Denomination and beyond, and have created a record in practical and successful social reconstruction. The Mission is also an evangelistic centre, "the poor have the Gospel preached unto them." In this area we stand alone in witnessing the New Birth and in proclaiming the one thing needful, and both

indoors and out of doors we preach Jesus and Him crucified.

Sabbath by Sabbath we continue the usual services, and despite the peculiarities of our parish we maintain a good average congregation, with a really fine Sunday School. The Sunday morning service is always an encouragement to the preacher. We can boast of two live class meetings, one averaging over 40 in weekly attendance. The other has all the characteristics of the old time Band Meeting. There is no Quaker-like silence associated therewith, nor ever any dull moments, but spontaneity of testimony, song and prayer are its main features.

The Weekly Women's Meeting never has less than 100 in attendance, nor are they drawn together by tea and buns, for this new fashion has not yet been introduced. It is purely an evangelistic service and in the best sense is kept brief and bright.

We hold a meeting for men of the Lodging House type. A heart to heart sort of meeting with no conventionalities. We sing in all sorts of times and tunes but we get there all the time, and many a "down and outer" has found inspiration and been led into a new way of life. Many a visitor have I taken into this meeting, some with Connexional reputations, but their courage has never risen to the invitation to say a few words to those men. I have not wondered at this, yet one feels there is a privilege in this meeting which no suburban Church or congregation could offer.

Our Christian Endeavour is one of the best in the East London Federation.

We take our stand on Sunday evenings in the Whitechapel Road and by song and word we successfully arrest the multitude, for oft-times our pulpit is surrounded with a big crowd. Sometimes opposition manifests itself, but we have been too long at this work to be discountenanced and our case is too good to be silenced by cheap scepticism. Moreover, the Mission has a record in Whitechapel. We can

prove our faith by our works and the unanswerable argument in the 'lame man healed' is always there as a part of our meeting and testimony.

So, in ways, usual and unusual, we bear witness to a Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation, and we keep the torch of evangelism alight in a heathen corner, more dark than in any foreign field.

Space forbids, or much could be said of auxiliary movements, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Wolf Cubs, but much is being attempted and something being done to save young life from the perils of the slum.

Our difficulties are many, not the same, perhaps, as those existent twenty years ago, but quite as numerous and more complex. One of the chief is the difficulty in maintaining a band of workers sufficient to cope with the opportunities of work among young people and keep organisations pulsing with life and achievement. Promising young men and women with heart and desire are suddenly taken from us by the exigencies of business or by marriage and there is much discouragement in ever piecing broken threads. I see no solution except in an increase of staff or in the creation of a fund, by the help of which a score of workers, whom social circumstances alone take from us, could still be retained and their interest and service be devoted to the place where, above all, they would prefer to devote it. They cannot live in Whitechapel even if they wished, but they could be brought and their service would be the provision of a missing link.



Women's Own.

It is just a question of expense. A fund such as above would overcome the housing problem and others, for by it we could annihilate distance and so maintain a requisite band of workers in the Sunday School and other auxiliary institutions.

Of the adversities outside much could be said; an alien population of a very revolutionary type is very difficult to touch. We are up against overlapping, not that most talked about in Methodist circles. In one short stretch of the Whitechapel Road, there are two breweries and 49 fully licensed and palatially built public houses. In the same stretch there is our own Church and the Parish Church.

Still, while our friends and helpers put their trust in us and continue support we shall carry on, for while there are many adversaries there is a wide door of opportunity quite open, and we are determined to enter it.

J. E. THORP.